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IN THE UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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**Inventors:** Miller et al. **Examiner:** Ahmed, S.  
5 **Serial No:** 10/061,836 **Group Art Unit:** 1765  
**Filing Date:** 1/31/02 **Confirmation No:** 9497  
**Title:** Methods and Systems for Forming Slots in a Substrate

10 **To:** Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
PO Box 1450  
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15 **From:** Dmitry Milikovsky  
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INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

20 This communication is in response to the Notice of Non-Compliant  
Amendment dated 6/09/04, for which a one-month period for response is set for  
7/09/04. Please amend the above-identified application in accordance the  
directions set forth below.

25 **Amendment to the Claims** are reflected on the list of claims which  
begins on page 2 of this paper.